

The Bankstons In New Zealand

May-June 2011

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Logan Serving With NBT



All-nighter



Mother-Daughter Banquet



Praises

- Logan serving with NBT • The All-Niter • Those attending youth group

Prayers

- Souls to be saved • Spiritual & physical church growth • Youth to seek God's will

So sorry it has taken us so long to get our prayer letters out lately. We have shifted (moved) again. Hopefully this will be our last move for a while. We have had to shift seven times in the past eight years. I can't say that we are experts, as many of the boxes have not been unpacked from the previous moves. It is our goal to unpack them this time. With each move we have to go through the headaches of getting our internet services re-established. This has caused us some delay in getting the prayer letters out.

This year is flying by; and we are in the middle of winter here in New Zealand. It has not been too cold yet, but we have received so much rain that our yard has been under water and impossible to mow. I pray that the rain subsides by late July, as we have our annual Winter Teen Camp-out. Three days camping in the wilderness, during the winter, is a big challenge; it's character building, and it not only physically but spiritually impacting the life of the teens.

We have been very busy and know that we are going to be even busier in July and August. In May there was a Mother-Daughter banquet held in Rotorua. This is a great opportunity for our ladies to get together and encourage one another in the Word of God. It also lends itself to helping the younger ladies be better prepared to serve the Lord. This year they had the opportunity to hear from a guest speaker from the United States. It is always an encouragement to hear the testimonies of others on how God has worked in their lives, even when it is across the world.

The annual teen all-niter was held in June. We had fewer this year, as several of our youth have finished High School and gone off to university. There were 14 of us, which actually was a very good number for me to work with in a more personal way. We sat down in a circle and discussed who will we serve with our lives. I addressed that several of them soon were going to be making decisions that would affect the rest of their lives. I asked them if they had asked God what He wanted them to do. Sometimes I think we get so wrapped up in what we want to do that we forget to seek God and what He wants for us. I believe many of the youth left knowing that they needed to seek God and His will for their lives.

We have had several new young ladies come to our youth group that have never been to a church or heard the name of Jesus before. We have been able to share the Gospel clearly to them, but they have not made a decision for Christ. One of the young ladies is searching for answers and it is our pray that she will soon ask Jesus to save her. Pray for these ladies.

It has been very encouraging to see the young man that I had the opportunity to lead to the Lord last April, consistently come to our church. He has become very good friends with another teen boy in our church and the two of them have been supporting and encouraging each other in their local school. It is very hard for our youth to stay strong in the school system here, as I am sure it is for those in schools in other countries. You can believe anything you want as long as it does not involve Jesus Christ. How sad!

We have had to endure summer this year without Logan. I know he has been a blessing to many churches in the States, but we miss him heaps. He will finish his circuit in August and then return back to West Coast Baptist College for his Junior year. Last time I talked with him, he was so excited that God had used him and his NBT partner (Jared) to lead many souls to Christ. We want to thank all of those who prayed and supported him this Summer.

Thank you for your prayers, support, and financial giving so that we can be here to serve the Lord. Your missionaries: Guy, Debbie & Erin Bankston.

